

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as currently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-10 are currently pending, Claim 1 having been canceled and Claim 2 having been amended by way of the present invention.

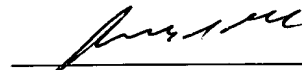
In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected as being anticipated by Tsuchiya et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,787,061); Claims 5-10 were indicated as being allowable over the prior art; and Claims 2-4 were objected to, but otherwise indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of allowable subject matter. In reply, Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 2 has been amended to include the features identified in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, thus putting Claim 2 in condition for allowance. As Claims 3-4 depend from Claim 2, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 3-4 are also in condition for allowance.

Consequently, in view of the indication of Claims 2-10 as containing allowable subject matter, and in view of the amendment to Claim 2, and cancellation of Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the presently amended claims are in condition for formal allowance. An action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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